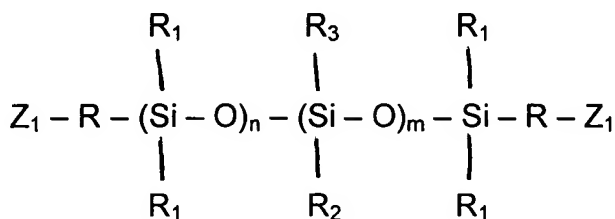


IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims have been amended as indicated below wherein added words are underlined and deleted words are {braced}.

Claims 1-7 (Withdrawn)

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of producing {the} prepolymer precursors {of claim 1}

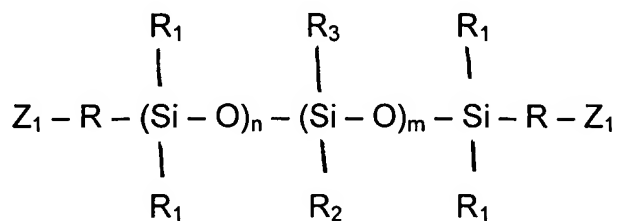


wherein the R groups may be the same or different saturated C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbon substituents; the R₁ groups may be the same or different C₁₋₁₀ alkyl substituents; the R₂ groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₁₀ alkyl substituents, C₁₋₁₀ fluoroalkyl substituents, and C₂₋₂₀ alkyl-fluoroalkyl substituents; the R₃

groups may be the same or different C₆₋₃₀ aromatic substituents; n is a natural number; and m is a natural number greater than 4 representing the sum of siloxane moieties with randomly differing R₁, R₂ and R₃ groups as defined above so as to have a molar ratio of aromatic substituents to alkyl substituents no less than 1:4 such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45; and the Z₁ groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of –OH and –NH₂, comprising:

reacting 1,3-bis-hydroxyalkyl polysiloxane or 1,3-bis-aminoalkyl polysiloxane with at least one silane selected from the group consisting of dimethyldimethoxysilane, diphenyldimethoxysilane and methylphenyldimethoxysilane.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method of producing {the} prepolymer precursors {of claim 1}



wherein the R groups may be the same or different saturated C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbon substituents; the R₁ groups may be the same or different C₁₋₁₀ alkyl substituents; the R₂ groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₁₀ alkyl substituents, C₁₋₁₀ fluoroalkyl substituents, and C₂₋₂₀ alkyl-fluoroalkyl substituents; the R₃ groups may be the same or different C₆₋₃₀ aromatic substituents; n is a natural number; and m is a natural number greater than 4 representing the sum of siloxane moieties with randomly differing R₁, R₂ and R₃ groups as defined above so as to have a molar ratio of aromatic substituents to alkyl substituents no less than 1:4 such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45; and the Z₁ groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of –OH and –NH₂, comprising:

reacting 1,3-bis-hydroxyalkyl polysiloxane or 1,3-bis-aminoalkyl polysiloxane with at least one cyclic polysiloxane selected from the group consisting of 1,3,5-trimethyl-1,3,5-triphenylcyclotrisiloxane, 1,1,3,3,5,5-hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane and 1,1,3,3,5,5-hexaphenylcyclotrisiloxane.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8 or 9 wherein said 1,3-bis-hydroxyalkyl polysiloxane is 1,3-bis-hydroxybutyltetramethyldisiloxane.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 8 or 9 wherein said 1,3-bis-aminoalkyl polysiloxane is 1,3-bis-aminopropyltetramethyldisiloxane.

Claims 12–29 (Withdrawn)

Should there be any questions regarding this preliminary amendment,
please feel free to contact the undersigned at (636) 226-3340.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita D. Vacca", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rita D. Vacca
Reg. No. 33,624

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